Visual literacy/Reading pictures

Being literate ... means being active, critical, and creative users not only of print and spoken language but also of the visual language of film and television, commercial and political advertising, photography, and more. Teaching students how to interpret and create visual texts ... is another essential component of the English language arts curriculum. (NCTE/ IRA, 1996, p. 5)

"Let s talk Image"

Today's society is highly visual, and sometimes the visual imagery is not supplemental to other forms of information.

New digital technologies have made it possible for almost anyone to create and share visual media.

Because so much information is communicated visually, it is more important than ever that our students learn what it means to be visually literate.

Those who create visual images (such as photographs) do so with a purpose in mind, using certain techniques. In order to "read" or analyze an image, the audience (our students) must be able to understand the purpose and recognize the techniques.

<u>Just like Media Literacy, Visual Literacy is about analyzing and creating messages.</u>

 Images can be used to influence and persuade, so it is incumbent upon educators to learn how to teach with and about images and to help our students understand the language of photography.

Visual Literacy

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Visual Literacy skills provide a learner to understand and analyze the contextual, cultural, ethical, aesthetic, intellectual, and technical components involved in the production and use of visual materials.

A visually literate individual is both a critical consumer of visual media and a competent contributor to a body of shared knowledge and culture.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Visual Literacy course help the student to effectively find, interpret, evaluate, use, and create images and visual media.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, student will be able to:

- ➢ Evaluate images and their sources.

- ➢ Understanding How Photographs Communicate: angle, framing, colors, light, focus, and composition…

- ➢ Interpret , analyze and criticize the meanings of images and visual media.

- ➢ Use images and visual media effectively .

- ➢ Experiment the photography methods and techniques, in order to express ideas using Wordpress and Instagram.

- ➢ Illustrate an image for an article and create a story for an image.

- ➢ Cultivate a personal visual towards assigned projects, based on cultural background.

- ➢ Retouching, manipulating and transforming image using different digital skills such as Photoshop, pixlr, lightroom…

- ➢ Develop a series of photos, which fit the same concept using storify.

- ➢ Design and create meaningful images and visual media.

- ➢ Communicate with image using social media tools: twitter, Facebook…

Tools and recourses:

Whether they are images in a text or a picture book, news photos in the morning's newspaper, or a digitally altered photo of a fashion model on the cover of a magazine- images, topics and lectures should be related or cover a human case in our region such as:

- ➢ Children's rights
- ➢ The portrayal of women in advertising
- ➢ Marginalized minorities
- ➢ Sectarianism
- ➢ Violence
- ➢ Racial discrimination…

Tanya Atallah Dahdah